

Message Text

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47 40

ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 H-02 EB-07 HEW-02 /030 W

----- 022107

R 241205Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4893

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAGR, OVIP

SUB: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN IRAN

REF: STATE 300787

SUMMARY INFORMATION ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION REQUESTED BY
CONGRESSMAN FINDLEY FOLLOWS:

1. IRAN'S AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM PRESENTLY INVOLVES
MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES, OF EDUCATION,
AND OF SCIENCE AND HIGHER EDUCATION, WITH PLANS UNDERWAY FOR
CERTAIN RURAL TRAINING WITHIN MINISTRY OF COOPERATIVES AND
RURAL AFFAIRS. CURRENT POLICY APPARENTLY DICTATES A SHIFT OF
AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, HOWEVER,
WITH DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION LIKELY TO BE
RAISED TO UNDERSECRETARY LEVEL.

2. AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION NOW COMPRISES:

A. NINE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES OF VARYING CURRICULA AND TRAINING
EFFICIENCY, 3 OF WHICH ARE UNDER AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY AND RE-
MAINDER UNDER HIGHER EDUCATION. ANNUAL GRADUATES NUMBER ABOUT
700.

B. SOME 15 AGRICULTURAL TRAINING CENTERS OF VOCATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL LEVEL UNDER AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY WITH 2 AND 4 YEAR
CURRICULA NOW ARE BEING STANDARDIZED TO 4 YEARS. THESE TRAIN ABOUT
1,000 TECHNICIANS ANNUALLY.

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C. AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF MIXED TECHNICAL SCHOOLS EXIST WITH SOME AGRICULTURAL TRAINING, WITH 7 OF THESE NOW TRANSFERRING TO FULL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM UNDER AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY. GOAL IS TO HAVE 150 AGRICULTURAL TECHNICAL SCHOOLS OR TRAINING CENTERS WITHIN 12 YEARS.

D. TRAINING CENTERS AND RELATED EXTENSION PROGRAMS ALSO PROVIDE AGRICULTURAL SHORT COURSES AND SPECIAL MECHANICAL TRAINING OF UP TO SIX WEEKS DURING SLACK SEASON FOR SMALL FARMERS. ANNUAL TOTAL THUS REACHED EXCEEDS 10,000.

E. IN ADDITION, SEVERAL THOUSAND IRANIAN STUDENTS ARE STUDYING AGRICULTURE AND RELATED SUBJECT MATTER IN FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES.

3. CURRENT SYSTEM CONSIDERED EFFECTIVE BUT NEEDS DYNAMICS EXPANSION AT ALL LEVELS TO ACHIEVE PRIORITY GOALS SET FOR AGRICULTURE. AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY STUDIES FORESEE NEED WITHIN 20 YEARS FOR 30,000 FARM MANAGERS, 90,000 AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS WITH HIGHER EDUCATION, 180,000 AGRICULTURAL TECHNICIANS AND 2.7 MILLION RURAL LABORERS WITH IMPROVED SKILLS.

4. SOME WEAKNESSES CURRENTLY APPARENT ARE LACK OF QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS FOR THE EXPANSION CONTEMPLATED, AN PROBLEM OF ENTICING MORE AGRICULTURAL GRADUATES TO WORK DIRECTLY IN AGRICULTURE RATHER THAN ACCEPT OFFICE JOBS, AND FINDING EFFECTIVE MEANS OF RAPIDLY TRAINING LARGE NUMBERS OF GENERALLY ILLITERATE PEASANT FARMERS WHOSE KNOWLEDGE OF AGRICULTURE IS RUDIMENTARY AND TRADITIONAL.

5. THE U.S. PROVIDED CONSIDERABLE ASSISTANCE TO AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION THROUGH AID PROGRAMS UNTIL 1962, BUT CURRENTLY PROVIDES ONLY MINIMAL INDIRECT HELP. MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE CURRENTLY RECEIVES SOME EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM UNESCO AND NEAR EAST FOUNDATION. BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO TRAINING CENTERS WAS AVAILABLE UNTIL RECENTLY FROM FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY AND FRANCE, WITH NEGOTIATIONS UNDERWAY TO RENEW CONTRACT WITH LATTER. SOME OFFICIALS PREFER TO PATTERN AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING ON U.S. PRINCIPLES HOWEVER DUE BOTH TO CONFIDENCE IN OUR METHODS AND GREATER FACILITY FOR ENGLISH.

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6. DISCUSSIONS REGARDING POSSIBLE U.S. ASSISTANCE WERE HELD EARLY 1975 UNDER AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION. IRANIANS EXPECT THAT ONE OR TWO USDA REPRESENTATIVES WILL COME TO IRAN EARLY 1976 TO SURVEY TRAINING NEEDS AND SUGGEST POSSIBLE LINES OF ACTION. ROBERT AYLING, DEPUTY DIRECTOR INTERNATIONAL TRAINING, ERS/USDA CAN PROVIDE INFORMATION ON MATTERS ALREADY DISCUSSED. REQUEST FROM HIM COPIES OF REPORT OF U.S.-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION COMMITTEE ON MANPOWER AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION, WASHINGTON,

FEBRUARY 4-5, 1975 AND REPORT OF U.S. TRAINING TEAM, TEHRAN,
MARCH 18, 1975.

7 MINISTRY AGRICULTURE CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH EXECUTIVE
SERVICE CORPS FOR POSSIBLE EDUCATIONAL EXPERTS. IT HAD INDICATED
INTEREST IN PEACE CORPS AGRICULTURALISTS FOR TRAINING CENTERS, WHICH
NOT IN CARDS OWING 1976 PEACE CORPS PHASE OUT IN IRAN.

8. FYI. TAGHIR JEBRAILI, AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR
EDUCATION WILL BE IN U.S. DECEMBER 25-JANUARY 8 AND HAD HOPED TO
SEE AYLING IN ERS CONCERNING THESE PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS.
JEBRAILI CAN BE CONTACTED SHERATON HOTEL, NEW YORK,
DECEMBER 26-30.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CODELS, AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN12445
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750447-0548
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaalgx.tel
Line Count: 131
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 300787
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN IRAN
TAGS: EAGR, OVIP, (FINDLEY, PAUL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006